

## Prairie College Graduation Preparation Process 2017-18

### **Graduation Candidature Preparation Process**

You will need to complete a reflection of your growth journey during your Prairie experience related to the Taxonomy of Student Outcomes. Your own written notes from the reflection process will serve as a basis for your verbal reflection with faculty. The verbal presentation takes place in the context of the graduation candidature interview.

### **What are the purposes of the spiritual journey reflection?**

- To give you the opportunity to reflect and report on your growth related to the Taxonomy of Student Outcomes.
- To provide faculty opportunity to realistically recommend you for graduation with respect to spiritual growth and/or character development.
- To supply faculty opportunity to affirm, encourage and/or direct you in your development process related to the Taxonomy of Student Outcomes. The graduation process is based on the following Taxonomy.

### **Spiritual Formation Outcomes (Taxonomy of Student Outcomes):**

#### **Developing in Relationship to God's Person**

General indicators including:

- *Fear of God*—experiencing veneration, reverence and awe of God
- *Love of God*—responding to the unmerited personal love, grace and mercy of God.
- *Desire for and delight in God*—hungering and thirsting for God.
- *Faith in God*—trusting God's character, Word and works in circumstances of life.
- *Hope in God*—attending to the presence and activity of God.
- *Truth of God*—applying the Word of God as the authority of faith and conduct.
- *Lordship of God*—surrendering all of life to the love of God.
- *Fruit of the Spirit*—evidencing the inner presence of God.
- *Spiritual practices*—participating in exercises necessary to deepen relationship with God.

#### **Developing in Relationship to God's Purpose in His World**

General indicators include:

- *Church*—contributing regularly in a local congregation
- *Witness*—announcing Good News through words, attitudes and actions.
- *Servant*—practicing good works toward others.
- *Worship*—declaring God's glory in all of life's experiences.
- *Mission*—moving into every area and arena of life as God's kingdom.
- *Justice*—seeking righteousness, mercy and justice.
- *Steward*—caring for life and resources
- *Relationship*—cultivating loving friendship to others.

#### **Developing in Relationship to God's Personal Working**

General indicators include:

- *Heart*—allowing God to pervade the inner life.

- *Will*—submitting attitudes and choices to the will of God at any cost to self
- *Mind*—renewing thought in obedience to Christ.
- *Emotion/Feeling*—orienting emotions under the authority of God.
- *Purpose*—embracing the unique design of God for the individual.
- *Body*—offering the body as an instrument of righteousness.
- *Virtue*—progressing in character qualities of Christ-likeness
- *Vice*—wrestling with sins of body, soul and spirit.

### **Candidature Committee Composition:**

The Candidature Committee for 1 and 2 year are the Director of Student Development or designate (Impact Leader) and a faculty/staff member of their choice. If married or engaged, you may invite a significant other as an observer to your interview.

The Candidature Committee for 3 and 4-year program applicants is composed of your faculty advisor, your Director of Student Development or designate (chair), and another faculty member of your choice. If married or engaged, you may invite a significant other as an observer to your interview.

### **The interview will take approximately an hour and include the following general format:**

- Introductory comments/prayer (Chair)
- Growth in student development outcomes presentation (Student)
- Questions/advice/interaction (Faculty)
- Formative experiences presentation (Student)
- Questions/advice/interaction (Faculty)
- Learning about yourself and God’s calling presentation (Student)
- Questions/advice/interaction (Faculty)
- Conclusions (Chair)
- Prayer

### **Reflection Questions:**

The central question for your written and verbal reflection is, “**How has God been working in my life, particularly during my time at Prairie?**” Consider how God has been writing His story in your life through experiences and relationships and in what way those have been formative.

The following questions are only provided to assist you in this reflection/discernment process. Discussion will be related to the following three areas.

### **1. Discuss and demonstrate your growth related to the Taxonomy of Student Outcomes (see list of these outcomes above) during your experience at Prairie.**

#### **These are questions that should frame this reflection:**

- In what specific areas, related to the Taxonomy of Student Outcomes, have I grown?
- What are specific changes and illustrations of changes that Christ has made in my life (i.e. thoughts, actions and attitudes)?

- What obstacles have I have encountered that has hindered my spiritual growth?
- What and who have been helpful toward my spiritual growth? How?
- What are some of the significant “spiritual markers” (i.e. important experiences) in my life while at Prairie? What is important about each of the “markers”?
- How would I describe my current relationship to God?

## **2. Discuss the formative experiences (both positive and negative) in your time at Prairie:**

### **These are questions that should frame this reflection:**

- What accomplishments have brought me fulfilment or special recognition? How? Why?
- What events have brought me great joy?
- At what points did I feel particularly good about life? Why?
- When have I made my greatest contributions to life or others?
- What have been the most influential experiences in my life?
- Who or what has been a source of pain in my life? When? Why?
- What has brought me great disappointment? Why?
- What addictions or compulsions have I wrestled with? How?

## **3. Discuss your learning during your time at Prairie about yourself and God’s calling in your life:**

### **These are questions that should frame this reflection:**

- What are my character strengths and in what way(s) have I been shaped at Prairie?
- What are my character weaknesses?
- What are my spiritual gifts? How have I practiced these? How have they been evidenced?
- What is my ministry passion and how that has been evidenced?
- What is my vocation/calling and how that is shaping my direction in life?
- What is my attitude/actions toward the church and global mission?

### **Candidature Interview Results:**

Since students enter with different levels of development in their spiritual walk, no predetermined levels of achievement are appropriate for all. Instead, graduates are required to demonstrate appropriate growth in the Taxonomy of Student Outcomes. The Candidature Committee determines whether student formation standards have been met. They may rely on input from faculty, staff, peers, ministry/work supervisors, and the interview process. The Committee chair (or designate) notifies the student of the Committee’s decision, in person or in writing. Notifications of denial or delay are delivered by hand (if possible); and are included in the Academic Guide.